

High Schools That Work

10 Key Practices

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- ⊕ **High Expectations** – integrating high expectations into classroom practices; frequent feedback to students
- ⊕ **Program of Study** – Upgraded academic core with a concentration
- ⊕ **Academic Studies** – Aligning courses to essential state and national standards that prepare students for college and career
- ⊕ **Career/technical Studies** – More access to intellectually challenging CTE studies in high-skill, high demand, high wage fields that emphasize math, science, literacy, and problem-solving skills
- ⊕ **Students Actively Engaged** – Rigorous and challenging academic and career/technical classes using research-based instructional strategies & technologies
- ⊕ **Teachers Working Together** – Time and support for teachers to work together
- ⊕ **Work-Based Learning** – Offering planned, stimulating, real-world experiences that reinforce academic and career knowledge and skills
- ⊕ **Guidance** – Involving students and parents in a guidance & advisement system that develops positive relationships and ensures completion of a program of study with an academics and/or CTE concentration.
- ⊕ **Extra Help** – Structured system of extra help to assist students in completing high-level academic and technical content.
- ⊕ **Culture of Continuous Improvement** – Use multiple data sources to continuously improve school culture, organization, management, curriculum, and instruction to advance student learning.

Making Middle Grades Work

10 Key Practices

- ⊕ **High Expectations & Extra Help** – Investing time and resources to provide the extra help needed for students to achieve at least to grade-level standards
- ⊕ **Academic Core** – Aligning academic course requirements to what students must know, understand and be able to do to succeed in college-prep English/Language Arts, math, science and social studies
- ⊕ **Belief That all Students Matter** – Developing a relationship with an adult who takes interest in successful learning, goal setting, course selection, educational planning, progress, and personal growth.
- ⊕ **Classroom Practices That Engage All Students** – Varied activities linked to challenging academic content and real-world applications.
- ⊕ **Teachers Working Together** – Cross-disciplinary teams that have time and support to work together to help students succeed
- ⊕ **Parental Support** – Focusing on parents clearly understanding and supporting higher standards of performance in the middle grades
- ⊕ **Qualified Teachers** – Teachers who know academic content and understand how to teach middle grades students effectively
- ⊕ **Use of Data** – Using multiple data sources on student and school performance to review and revise school and classroom practices.
- ⊕ **Use of Technology** – Using technology as a tool for learning (conducting research, writing papers, communicating globally, preparing presentations, exploring new technologies)
- ⊕ **Strong Leadership** – Purposeful selection, development, and support for middle grades principals to become effective instructional leaders

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